

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated natural host defense factor (HDFX).
- 5 2. The isolated HDFX of claim 1, wherein said HDFX is of a mammalian origin.
3. The isolated HDFX of claim 2, wherein said HDFX is murine or rat HDFX.
4. The isolated HDFX of claim 1, wherein said HDFX is water soluble, and is
10 resistant to pH 5.5 and to boiling for 10 minutes.
5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the isolated HDFX of any one of
claims 1-3, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 15 6. A method of enhancing the ability of a subject to fight against or recover from
a disease caused by a pathogen, comprising administering an effective amount
of HDFX to the animal before or after exposure to the pathogen.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said subject is a mammal.
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8. The method of claim 7, wherein said mammal is human.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein said subject is a companion animal.
- 25 10. The method of claim 6, wherein said pathogen is a bacterial, fungal,
mycoplasm, ricketsial, parasite, prion-like or viral pathogen.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein said pathogen is selected from anthrax, HIV
or a hepatitis virus.

12. The method of claim 6, wherein said disease is selected from smallpox, plague, botulism, hemorrhagic fever, AIDS, fever, severe acute respiratory syndrome, a disease caused by anthrax, or a disease caused by hepatitis B virus, or new evolving diseases.

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13. A method of enhancing the ability of a subject to sustain and survive an insult by administering an effective amount of HDFX to the subject prior to or after the insult.
- 10 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said insult is selected from the group consisting of trauma, hemorrhage, ischemic strokes, sepsis, burns, multiple organ failure, battle wounds, and major surgery.